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COMMENTS ON BACTERIOLOGICAL WARFARE BY A SOVIET SCIENTIST

[The following is a summary of an article by Prof V. D. Timakov,  
 Active Member, Academy of Medical Sciences USSR, published under the  
 title "To Protect Humanity from the Threat of Biological Warfare."]

The great pioneers in the field of microbiology, those who belonged to di-  
 verse nationalities and especially Russian microbiologists, worked primarily for  
 the benefit of humanity. Russian microbiologists in their heroic and self-  
 sacrificing work have exposed themselves to accidental infection with dangerous  
 diseases and in many instances purposely infected themselves with microorganisms  
 causing diseases like cholera, typhus, relapsing fever, etc. A typical instance  
 of this self-sacrificing attitude is the voluntary exile to which D. K. Zabo-  
 lotnyy, N. M. Berestnev, V. N. Isayev, and others subjected themselves when they  
 worked in the plague laboratory that was opened in 1898 on a small island near  
 Kronstadt. In this laboratory, methods of producing plague vaccine and anti-  
 plague serum were developed. Some of the people engaged in this work caught  
 plague and died.

Soviet microbiologists inherited the great tradition of prerevolutionary  
 Russian scientists. In 1932, when the first outbreak of tick encephalitis, a  
 disease which was unknown until then, occurred in the Far East, Soviet scien-  
 tists went into the depth of the taya to study the disease. These scientists  
 rapidly isolated the causative factor of tick encephalitis, investigated its  
 spread and mode of propagation, and developed a method of preventing the dis-  
 ease.

While working on live vaccines for the prophylaxis of plague, Soviet scien-  
 tists fearlessly tested on themselves vaccines consisting of modified plague ba-  
 cilli.

As a result of work by Soviet microbiologists, and by reason of favorable  
 conditions which exist in the USSR for combating infectious diseases, smallpox,  
 plague, cholera, and relapsing fever were entirely eradicated. The occurrence

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of malaria, typhoid, and diphtheria was sharply curtailed, and the spread of other infections prevented. During the difficult years of World War II, Soviet microbiologists developed new methods of preparing living vaccines which are active against anthrax, plague, tularemia, brucellosis, and other diseases.

In the field of theoretical microbiology, Soviet scientists were the first to demonstrate the possibility of transmutation of one species of bacteria into another related species, and to establish that microorganisms pass through different phases during development.

While Soviet scientists apply their efforts and knowledge only toward the prevention and elimination of infectious diseases, the imperialists have begun to use bacteria for the mass extermination of human beings. They purposely spread epidemics to achieve this purpose. In capitalistic countries, particularly the US, scientists paid by monopolies are doing research aimed at increasing the pathogenic qualities of microorganisms.

These activities are by no means new. During World War I, the German high command attempted to use bacteriological weapons. According to the London Times, the Germans made thorough preparations for biological warfare prior to World War II. These included selection and breeding of pathogenic bacteria, study of air drafts at entrances to the Paris subway, research on aerosols, etc. The trial of certain Nazi physicians established that the Germans experimented on thousands of war prisoners in their work on infectious agents (see the testimony of Gen Walter Schreiber). The Japanese went still further in experiments on the application of BW weapons. In 1931, the Kwantung Army created large bacteriological laboratories for the study of BW methods and weapons. It appears from the minutes of the Khabarovsk trial that Detachment No 731 alone could produce in one month 300 kg of plague bacilli, 700 kg of anthrax bacilli, and more than a ton of the causative factor of cholera. Japanese bacteriologists working under the direction of Ishii Jiro developed methods for the mass breeding of fleas, ticks, and other disease-carrying parasites. They designed special bacteriological bombs, which were then released over Chinese territory.

Particularly extensive investigations in connection with preparations for biological warfare have been carried out in the US since 1941. In the US 4,000 experts employed at special Air Force institutes (Camp Detrick, Md, and Randolph Field, Texas) are working on the application of bacteria for military purposes.

Alfred Zimmeri, director of the so-called scientific center at Hertford, has written: "BW weapons have already been prepared for use and may be applied immediately. There is no point in quibbling and distinguishing between legal and illegal use of force." The Canadian professor Karrer [Carrer?] has pointed out the advantages of BW weapons, stating which microbes can be used against human beings and which against animals. He has said that extermination of cattle can be achieved by spreading rinderpest, from which 90% of the cattle perish.

At present, over the territories of Korea and northeast China, the American imperialists are dropping fleas, ticks, flies, mosquitoes, and sand flies infected with microbes of plague, cholera, typhus, encephalitis, and the causative factors of other diseases. Among all diseases produced by microorganisms in humans and animals, these are the most severe and cause the greatest amount of suffering.

One of the dangerous aspects of BW is that foci of infection are created in places where they did not exist before. These foci may continue to be active not only during the war, but for prolonged periods after the war. The

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causative factors of infectious diseases forming natural foci are preserved in the bodies of various insects, ticks, and other disease carriers. Some of the disease carriers being dropped by Americans over Korea and China, ticks for instance, preserve the artificially introduced disease factor in their bodies for a long time and in the course of propagation transmit it to their progeny from generation to generation. Such carriers of infectious diseases adapt themselves with comparative facility to new natural conditions and produce new foci of infection which remain active for a long time.

The application of BW for the extermination of human beings and animals is a barbarous way of waging war; this is why BW, as well as CW, has been outlawed by the international Geneva convention of 1925. The anger and resentment which application of BW has caused throughout the world has forced US Secretary of State Acheson to take recourse to the untrue statement that Americans do not use BW weapons. This assertion does not jibe with writings by US bacteriologists Prof Th. Rosebury, Bold, Dr Walter J. Nungester, president of the American Bacteriological Society, and others, who with great cynicism discussed in considerable detail the possibilities and applications of BW. In the name of humanity and peace, the peace-loving nations of the whole world, under the leadership of the USSR, will succeed in putting a stop to the evil deeds of American imperialists, and thus protect humanity from the threat of bacteriological warfare.

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